

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. REACTIONS TO SCHMIDT'S DISCLOSURE ON AID TO ITALY

EMBASSIES ROME AND PARIS HAVE ANALYZED REACTIONS GENERATED BY CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S ELABORATION OF THE POLITICAL CONDITIONS AGREED UPON AT PUERTO RICO FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO ITALY. ACCORDING TO EMBASSY ROME:

--THE ITALIANS ARE PARTICULARLY GALLED AT NOT HAVING HAD REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT FOR THE SUMMIT DISCUSSION ON ITALY.

--ITALIAN POLITICIANS OF EVERY POLITICAL STRIPE ARE CHARACTERIZING THE POLICY AS "BLACKMAIL."

--SCHMIDT'S STATEMENT, IN THE VIEW OF MANY OBSERVERS,
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CAN ONLY MAKE MORE DIFFICULT ANDREOTTI'S TASK OF FORM-

ING A NEW GOVERNMENT.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE SCHMIDT STATEMENT AND THE NEW YORK TIMES STORY HAVE PROVIDED THE PCI WITH A MOST EFFECTIVE WEAPON TO EMBARRASS THE DC FOR NOT DEFENDING "ITALY'S DIGNITY."

IN EMBASSY PARIS' VIEW, THE GOF WILL FIND ITSELF IN A DIFFICULT POSITION WHETHER OR NOT COMMUNISTS ARE NAMED TO THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT:

--BY ADHERING TO THE ALLEGED PUERTO RICAN UNDERSTANDING, GISCARD IS OPEN TO ACCUSATIONS OF UNDERMINING EUROPE AND INTERFERING IN ITALY'S DOMESTIC AFFAIRS.

--WERE GISCARD TO BOW TO DOMESTIC PRESSURE AND GIVE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO ITALY DESPITE THE PRESENCE OF COMMUNISTS IN THE CABINET, HE WOULD RISK WORSENING RELATIONS WITH SOME EUROPEAN PARTNERS AND WITH THE USG. (CONFIDENTIAL) ROME 11583 AND PARIS 20977, 7/19.)

2. TERRORIZING THE REIGN IN SPAIN

THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FRANCO UPRISING HAS OCCASIONED A WAVE OF BOMBINGS THROUGHOUT SPAIN. ACCORDING TO EMBASSY MADRID:

--THE INTENT WAS CLEARLY TO CHALLENGE THE GOVERNMENT, BUT WHETHER BY EXTREME RIGHT OR EXTREME LEFT IS UNKNOWN.

--SO FAR, NO GROUP HAS CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE BOMBINGS WHICH HAVE RESULTED IN CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE TO BUILDINGS, BUT ONLY ONE FATALITY.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE NATIONWIDE CHARACTER OF SOME OF THESE BOMBINGS SUGGESTS COHESIVE ORGANIZATION AND AN EFFORT TO DISRUPT THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S AUTHORITY AND PROGRAM OF MODERATE REFORMS, WHICH IS OPPOSED BY BOTH THE EXTREME LEFT
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AND EXTREME RIGHT. (SECRET) MADRID 5551, 7/19.) KISSINGER

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